

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02834 132320Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

HA-05 IO-13 /061 W

-----006957 132332Z /61

O 132300Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3480

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 02834

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS SHUM, PINT, PA

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT REACTION TO LAINO CASE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) ASUNCION 2833, B) STATE 175686

1. AT A FOREIGN OFFICE RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT NOON ON JULY 13, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE SMILING AND CORDIAL. FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES AND INFLUENTIAL SENATOR CARLOS SALDIVAR SPENT SEVERAL MINUTES EARLY IN THE RECEPTION WITH ME. WHEN TWO OTHER DIPLOMATS JOINED US, SALDIVAR SAID HE BELIEVED MY STATEMENT HAD BEEN HELPFUL IN CLARIFYING THE SITUATION AND NOGUES THANKED ME ESPECIALLY FOR THE LAST PARAGRAPH. NOGUES THEN ASKED ME TO MEET WITH HIM AFTER THE RECEPTION.

2. THE BRIEF MEETING CONSISTED OF NOGUES SAYING THAT THE MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WHICH HAD ALWAYS MARKED OUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD CONTINUE AND THAT HE BELIEVED MATTERS WOULD NOW IMPROVE. I RESPONDED APPROPRIATELY AND MENTIONED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL B TO HIM. NOGUES SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH ME SOON AND THAT WE WOULD GET TOGETHER ON SATURDAY AS FRIDAY HE HAD TO GO OUT OF THE CITY WITH THE PRESIDENT.

3. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME HE SAW NOGUES THIS MORNING AND STATED THAT WHILE HE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AT THIS POINT
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HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMPOUNDING ITS ORIGINAL ERROR AND THAT IT SHOULD PUT A STOP TO THIS NONSENSE. HE HINTED TO NOGUES OF A POSSIBLE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY REACTION TO THE LAINO CASE.

4. THE VENEZUELAN, COLOMBIAN AND PANAMANIAN AMBASSADORS ARE OPENLY EXPRESSING COMMON CAUSE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND ARE

SPEAKING PRIVATELY TO FRIENDS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT COUNSELING
THEM TO RELEASE LAINO AND STOP SEEKING CONFRONTATION.
WHITE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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